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15 September 1948

Chief, Hawaii Bureau
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
Post Office Box 77
Kauai, I. H.

Dear Joe:

This is in reply to your letter of 8 September 1948.

I readily understand and appreciate your anxiety and that of the other members of the Kauai staff with reference to Okinawa. We all recognize the fact that you are intensely interested. However, time did not permit us, nor did we consider it necessary, to submit the plans for this installation to you for your comment prior to their completion. They have been drawn up by personnel with long experience in FBIS activities at more than one station, including Kauai. Although they may not be perfect, we feel that they are good.

Contrary to your information, the detailed blueprints for buildings have not been drawn up and many of the details concerning equipment and services are yet to be worked out. The detailed drawings were to have been completed by the Army Engineers at Sausalito, California yesterday provided they met with the approval of our representative, who is [redacted]. I have not heard from [redacted] so I do not know whether they are actually completed. Many of the details concerning equipment and services are still being worked out. When sufficient copies of the detailed drawings are actually in our possession, we will be only too glad to send a copy of them out for the information of the people at Kauai. The details concerning equipment and services, although not complete, will not be radically different from those at any other monitoring station. If there are any specific questions you care to ask, we will be glad to answer them for you.

Since [redacted] was travelling against a deadline to insure that he would not be in a temporary duty status more than 60 days, we did not feel that a trip to Kauai for him could be justified. He returned to Japan about the first of this month and should proceed to Okinawa today.

I do not feel that it is at all necessary at this time for us to ascertain what specific members of the Kauai staff are willing to

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transfer to Okinawa. The activation of Okinawa is still a long ways off, and prior to the actual deactivation of your station there will undoubtedly be personnel changes which cannot be foreseen at this time. In fact, I think it would be premature to push this too much at this time. When we can foresee an approximate activation date for Okinawa, it will be plenty early, I believe, to get down to brass tacks with reference to who is and who is not going to Okinawa.

In the meantime, however, we will do what we can to inform your people of the conditions on Okinawa. There is available a great deal of information with reference to the climate, population, activities, recreation, living conditions, etc., which can be obtained through the Army on Okinawa and which I will ask [] to forward to you in order that you may disseminate it to your staff. In this connection, I am sure this information will be much more informative and accurate than that which you can obtain through Collier's Magazine or any other similar publication. I should like to discourage the writing to such magazines by members of the staff in search of specific information since it is likely to indicate some details of the proposed move which, at the present time, is still not completely unclassified.

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I am sorry that [] was unable to accomplish his mission. We would have been more than glad to supply him with any needed information before his departure and I will discuss this matter with [] chief in the near future.

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In conclusion, I would like to reassure you that we are all cognizant of the fact that you are all interested and we will in ample time supply you and all the other members of your staff with all the information which you need to make plans for deactivation of the Kauai station and the transfer of personnel from Kauai to the new station. It is, however, entirely too early to become too excited about the details of this move.

Sincerely,

L. K. White

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